

July 4th Schedule of events

July 4th Block Party schedule of events

The block party will be held in the parking lot of Bldg. 755 and the bands will play in the parking lot of the Loring Club.

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| –Parade with floats | 11 a.m. |
| –Food booths and live music | noon - 8 p.m. |
| –Korean Dancers | TBA |
| –Pool hours | 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. |

Sports and fitness schedule of events

To sign up for the following sports events, contact the Kunsan Sports and Fitness Center at 782-4026.

- Monday:**
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| –Table Tennis | 6 p.m. |
| –Quarterback Challenge | 6 p.m. |

- Tuesday:**
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| –Team Fitness Challenge | 6 p.m. |
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- Wednesday:**
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| –3 on 3 Basketball (\$25 entry fee) | 9 a.m. |
| –Dizzybat Contest | 11 a.m. |
| –20K Mountain Bike | 8 a.m. |
| –5K Run | 9 a.m. |

Golf Tournament

A golf tournament is scheduled for Saturday at the West Winds Golf Course. For more information on the tournament's format and rules, call Donald Toole at 782-5435

**The parking lot of Bldg. 755 will be blocked off all day starting Tuesday until Wednesday. at 11 p.m. For more information, call 782-4619.*



The history of Independence Day

*By Staff Sgt. Waller
8th Fighter Wing History office*

As some people know, the Fourth of July marks the anniversary of the Second Continental Congress' unanimous adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Even so, the only people that celebrated the first Fourth of July in 1776 were inhabitants of Philadelphia, where the congress was held. The Fourth did not become a regularly celebrated holiday until after the War of 1812. However, by 1870 the day had become the most important non-religious holiday on the American calendar. In the new American West, the Fourth often represented the only day during the year when far-flung families came together as a community. At the time, people often cited the Fourth as a bigger holiday than Christmas.

From early morning on the Fourth until the first rays of sun on the fifth, people celebrated in many ways. Drinking and dancing until dawn were standard, as were parades complete with floats and marching bands. Local politicians gave fiery speeches in support of liberty and their bids for public office. Local merchants reminded folks to shop while in town rather than rely on mail order. Other activities documented from the time included various contests such as greased pig catching, greased pole climbing, wrestling, bare-knuckle prize fighting and foot, horse, and wagon races.

And of course, there were firecrackers. The night before Independence Day, miners would set off large charges outside of towns in celebration. However, miners weren't the only ones to get in on the explosive festivities. Kids often spent what money they had left on firecrackers after buying home-made ice cream, stick candy and lemonade. Unfortunately, many of these firecrackers found their way under dancing couples, horses and wagons. On Independence Day, injuries from fireworks were as common as runaway horses.

Fortunately, today's Fourth of July celebrations are slightly more sedate. Regardless, we should remember the reason why we celebrate the Fourth. Two hundred and twenty-five years ago, representatives from the original 13 colonies agreed to formally sever ties with its England and established the country we have all pledged our lives to defend.

AF leaders send holiday message

July 4, 1776, marked an extraordinary turning point in history. The Declaration of Independence adopted by the Continental Congress was, and still is, a revolutionary step in governance. It focused on the good of the individual as well as the good of society. More than 225 years later, those revolutionary ideas continue to flourish on this globe.

The American Revolution was based on the founding fathers' vision of liberty - one in which they placed all their trust and their very lives. Their courage has inspired countless Americans to serve our country in public life and the armed services to build this great nation. We owe a debt to all those who have gone before us for their sacrifices for our freedom.

To each and every military member and civilian on duty around the world, we salute you. We are proud to serve with you, as together we protect and preserve the extraordinary freedoms won by those who have gone before us.

**–James Roche, secretary of the Air Force and
Gen. Michael Ryan, Air Force chief of staff**